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**From:** John Hall  
**Sent:** Wed 2/22/2017 4:37:41 PM  
**Subject:** Request for Agency Agreement to Mediation/Settlement Discussions in City of Taunton v. EPA (1st Cir. 16-2280)  
[Taunton Est Group ltr to Pruitt 2-9-17.pdf](#)

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

Congratulations on your confirmation as the new Trump Administration head of EPA. Your arrival could not have come at a more opportune time for the City of Taunton, Massachusetts.

The City of Taunton is requesting that their permit challenge pending before the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit be put in abeyance, to allow settlement discussion of the issues with your staff to occur. As noted in the attached correspondence from the Taunton Estuary Municipal Coalition, EPA's permitting action grossly conflicted with the accepted, peer reviewed scientific methods for evaluating nutrient effects and failed to follow the "rule of law". In particular, the extreme nitrogen reduction mandate and other limits imposed on this economically depressed city were a result of an environmental agenda to regulate more restrictively, regardless of the facts.

We are confident that a frank discussion of the events that transpired and a fair review of the science and regulatory requirements applicable to such cases, would result in an agreement that this permit action needs to be withdrawn and reconsidered. If your Office would inform the Justice Department and the City that the Agency is agreeable to putting the matter in abeyance, pending settlement discussions(e.g., alternative dispute resolution), the appropriate motion could be filed with the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit. Such action would allow the City's limited resources to be directed at a productive resolution of the matter.

The City of Taunton looks forward to your Office's response. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

John

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